

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1-29 stand rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 14 have been amended. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 14 so that they now explicitly recite a first and second driver where the first driver is connected to a branching point, the branching point connecting to multiple RC circuits, the outputs of each of the RC circuits being attached to individual input terminals for devices under test (“DUT”). Additionally, the output of the second driver is input directly to an input of a DUT without going to a branch point.

The claimed method and apparatus for simultaneously inspecting a plurality of semiconductor devices is quite unlike the apparatus disclosed by Zamborelli. The apparatus in Zamborelli is a probe in which a signal flows from the DUT to a piece of test equipment. There is no disclosure in Zamborelli that would prompt one to combine the probe of Zamborelli with Applicant’s prior art which supplies a signal to a DUT. Additionally, there is no disclosure that one would mix the test probe of Zamborelli with a through connection to present signals to DUTs.

The test probe disclosed in Zamborelli is quite unlike the apparatus used to provide a test signal to a plurality of semiconductor devices. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and a notice of allowance for the above application.

In the Advisory Action dated December 2, 2003, the Examiner refers to new found reference U.S. Patent No. 6,642,707. Applicant respectfully points out that the '707 patent is not prior art. The present application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-114045, filed April 14, 2002. The '707 patent was filed on September 13, 2002. As such, the present application predates the '707 patent. If required, Applicant will perfect the claim for priority by filing a translation of the priority document.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Application No.: 09/832,666

Docket No.: W1878.0169/P169

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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